

State: Idaho 1 Part I: Attachments  
OMB Control Number: 1820-0664  
Expiration Date: 10/31/2008  
State: Idaho 2

**Attachment 1: Basic Information**

Name of Lead Agency:

Center on Disabilities and Human Development  
University of Idaho

Name of Applicable Division and/or Subdivision of Lead Agency:

Address of Lead Agency:

129 West Third Street  
Moscow, Idaho 83843

Name and Title of Certifying Representative for Lead Agency:

Polly Knutson, Mgr-Grants, Contracts/Compliance

Address for Certifying Representative:

University of Idaho

Morrill Hall

Box 443020

Moscow, Idaho 83844-3020

Telephone for Certifying Representative:

208-885-2560

E-mail for Certifying Representative:

pknutson@uidaho.edu

Name and Title of Program Director:

Ronald J. Seiler, Project Director

Idaho Assistive Technology Project

Address for Program Director:

129 West Third Street

Moscow, Idaho 83843

Telephone for Program Director:

1-208-885-3623

E-mail for Program Director:

rseiler@uidaho.edu

Name and Title of Program Contact (if different from Program Director):

Same as above

Address for Program Director:

Telephone for Program Director:

State: Idaho 3

E-mail for Program Director:

Name of Implementing Entity:

Same as above

Name of Applicable Division and/or Subdivision of Implementing Entity:

Address of Implementing Entity:

Name and Title of Program Director:

Same as above

Address for Program Director:

Telephone for Program Director:

E-mail for Program Director:

Name and Title of Program Contact (if different from Program Director):

Same as above

Address for Program Director:

Telephone for Program Director:

E-mail for Program Director:

State: Idaho 4

## **Attachment 2: Lead Agency and Implementing Entity**

**2.1 Identification and Description of the Lead Agency** - Identify and describe the Lead Agency referred to in section 4(c)(1)(A) of the AT Act.

### **2.1A Identification and Description of Lead Agency if an Implementing Entity is not Designated**

The Center on Disabilities and Human Development (CDHD) at the University of Idaho is the lead agency for Idaho's State Assistive Technology (AT) Program. Governor Dirk Kempthorne is the third chief executive officer of the state of Idaho to designate the CDHD as the lead agency for the Idaho Assistive Technology Project (IATP). The CDHD is Idaho's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). There are over 60 UCEDDs throughout the U.S. and its territories, each associated with a university or college. Since 1963, UCEDDs have been working to accomplish a shared vision that foresees a nation in which all Americans, including those with disabilities, participate fully in their communities. Independence, productivity, and community inclusion are key components of this vision.

Centers are in a unique position to facilitate the flow of disability-related information between community and university. Centers work with people with disabilities, members of their families, state and local government agencies, and community providers in projects that provide training, technical assistance, service, research, and information sharing, with a focus on building the capacity of communities to sustain all of their citizens. Centers have played key roles in every major disability initiative over the past four decades. Many issues, such as early intervention, health care, community-based services, inclusive and meaningful education, transition from school to work, employment, housing, assistive technology, and transportation have directly benefited from the services, research, and training provided by UCEDDs.

State: Idaho 5

The CDHD possesses the capacity to administer the IATP and to fulfill the requirements of the Assistive Technology Act of 2004 (refer to Assurances). All fiscal activities performed by the IATP are completed in accordance with and under the direction of the University of Idaho Controller. External funds are managed within the CDHD by a records manager and within the university system by the Office of Sponsored Programs, under the supervision of the controller. All fiscal procedures are consistent with EDGAR and comply with the relevant federal regulations.

The IATP has the staff expertise, physical infrastructure, and AT equipment to successfully operate a State AT Program. The IATP was funded under authority of the AT Act in 1992. Since then, the IATP has been a leader in our state for promoting access to and acquisition of AT among Idahoans with disabilities and their families. The IATP is an integral part of a larger effort in our state (and nationwide) to ensure that individuals

with disabilities achieve their educational goals, gain meaningful employment, reach full community participation, and have equal access to information technology.

**Staff Expertise:** The staff of the project has extensive experience providing AT services to Idahoans with disabilities. The project has had a relatively stable staff over the years, though this past year did see some changes in the configurations of the project's staff. The Project Director (1.0 FTE), Mr. Ron Seiler, has worked for the IATP since its inception. He is the father of a 25-year-old son who uses AT every day. He also has more than 21 years experience working in the area of assistive technology. The IATP's Information and Public Awareness Specialist (1.0 FTE), Ms. Sue House, has more than seven years experience providing AT services and worked in the area of special education for ten years before that time. Ms. Kristen Hagen is the new Administrative Assistant (1.0 FTE) for the project. She started work in December 2005.

State: Idaho 6

**Annual International Technology and Persons with Disabilities Conference.** Ms. Irene Lunsford was added to the project as Loan Program Manager (0.5 FTE). She has more than 26 years experience in the banking industry. The project's subcontractors also possess extensive experience in the area of AT. The IATP also has a new Training Coordinator (0.5 FTE), Ms. Nora Jehn. She has worked as a special education teacher and is the mother of a child with a disability. In the spring of 2006, she completed the California State University Northridge's Assistive Technology Certificate Program and attended the CSUN 21<sup>st</sup>

**Physical Infrastructure and AT Equipment:** The IATP maintains adequate physical infrastructure to operate a State AT Program. The project has administrative offices and maintains a small AT demonstration and training center at its Moscow location. This AT center has a wide array of AT devices which is primarily used to assist higher education students with disabilities and to provide AT services to local school districts. The project also maintains two other regional AT demonstration and training centers, one at United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) in Boise and the other at the Hand Therapy and Healing Center in Coeur d'Alene. Both centers maintain a large array of assistive devices for lending, training, and demonstration purposes. The IATP also purchases equipment each year to support the operation of seven Hearing Assistance Centers. In the past five years, the project has also placed AT equipment in an adult day care, a migrant education center, and seven different recreation groups who have received small grant awards in the last five years.

(a)(iv) **Ability to Coordinate Key Partners:** In addition to having experienced staff, adequate infrastructure, and AT equipment, the project maintains excellent relationships with a very broad array of Idaho-based organizations, state agencies, advocacy groups, and other

State: Idaho 7

private and public entities. Table 1 displays the project's most important partners. These groups will participate in efforts to implement the project's activities.

State: Idaho 8

**Table 1: Important Collaborators and Their Role in Implementing the Statewide AT Program**

Entity	Role Planning and Implementing Statewide AT Program	Information about Entity
--------	---	--------------------------

State Department of Education	Provides subcontract to IATP for full range of AT services to school districts Representative on Special Ed Advisory Panel Representative on IATP Advisory Board	State Education Agency
Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation	Representation on IATP Advisory Board IATP rep on State Rehabilitation Council Joint evaluation activities Joint training activities Assistance w/ Title III appropriations bill	State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency
State Independent Living Council & Centers for Independent Living	Joint legislative initiatives Joint evaluation activities (BSU survey) Joint planning & implementation of statewide Independent Living conference Joint training activities	SILC is funded by the Rehab Act and was created by Executive Order 93-01 on May 28, 1993
Zions Bank & Key Bank	Administers AT loan program	Alternative Financing Program partners
Idaho Community Foundation	Maintains Loan Program endowment and special project fund (used for guarantees)	Alternative Financing Program partners
United Cerebral Palsy	Receives subcontract from IATP to operate statewide lending library, statewide demo site, and regional computer access lab. Received additional subcontract to provide AgrAbility services and information.	Major partner in service provision, training and public awareness activities
Consortium for Idahoans with Disabilities	Policy-related group representing over 40 entities in state including SILC, CIL, P & A, DD Council, and many other groups.	Umbrella group for broad array of advocacy groups, providers, and others.
Hand Therapy and Healing Center	Receives subcontract from IATP to operate AT demo center and lending closet in north Idaho	Major partner in most training and public awareness activities in north Idaho
Idaho Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing	Operates 7 hearing assistance centers across state; IATP purchases equipment for these centers	Funded through the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
Idaho ADA Task Force	Joint evaluation activities Joint training activities Joint legislative initiatives Joint public awareness activities	Idaho's affiliate for the Region X Disability Business and Technical Assistance Center
Idaho IT Resource Management Council	Joint policy activities Joint training	Idaho's Interagency Council for IT
Commission on Aging and Area Agencies on Aging	Joint evaluation activities Joint public awareness activities Joint training IATP Advisory Council representation	Idaho's Older Americans Act Programs
Protection and Advocacy	Joint advocacy and legislative activities Joint capacity building & training Joint evaluation activities Joint planning	Funded Protection & Advocacy agency in Idaho (Comprehensive Advocacy, Inc)
Idaho Parents Unlimited	Joint public awareness activities Joint training of parents	Idaho Parent Training Center under IDEA

#### State: Idaho 9

The IATP added a new partner to its broad array of collaborators this past year. Working in partnership with the County Agriculture Extension office at the University of Idaho and United Cerebral Palsy, the IATP director was lead author for a grant to re-establish the AgrAbility Program in Idaho. The program was funded in April 2006, and has begun

to provide assistive technology education and services to Idaho agriculture production workers and their families. This is a statewide program and is funded for a minimum of four years.

**2.1B Identification and Description of the Lead Agency if an Implementing Entity Designated**

N/A

**2.2 Identification and Description of the Implementing Entity** – Identify and describe the Implementing Entity referred to in section 4(c)(1)(B) of the AT Act, if such an Implementing Entity is designated by the Governor.

N/A

**2.3 Show of Good Cause for Change in Lead Agency or Implementing Entity** – If the Governor has chosen to change the Lead Agency or, if applicable, Implementing Entity as allowed in section 4(c)(1)(C) of the AT Act, provide an explanation of good cause for this re-designation.

N/A.

State: Idaho 10

**Attachment 3: State Advisory Council**

**3.1 Membership of the Advisory Council** - Identify the members of the Advisory Council and each member's designation as an individual with disabilities who uses AT, a family member or guardian of such individual, or a representative of a State agency or other entity.

The project has maintained an active Advisory Council which has been involved in planning, implementing, and evaluating all project activities since 1992. This body will continue to provide consumer-driven, consumer-responsive advice to the state for planning and implementation of the activities of the IATP in Year Two and subsequent years. The Council has already taken steps to comply with the new requirements of the AT Act of 2004 as amended. To date, the Council has revised its by-laws and subsequently its membership to comply with the new requirements of the AT Act. The Advisory Council is now comprised of nine official voting members and ten ex-officio members. The nine voting members of the Council are comprised of five AT users or family members, and four representatives of the entities mandated by the AT Act. All of the official seats on the Council have been filled.

Idaho's State Plan was conditionally approved last year because a representative of the Workforce Investment Act Board had yet to be appointed to the Advisory Council. This past year, a representative from Idaho's Workforce Investment Act Board was appointed to the Advisory Council, and the State Plan did receive full approval from the RSA in a letter dated April 24, 2006.

As displayed in Table 2, the Advisory Council will be geographically representative of the state and will reflect the diversity of the state with respect to race, ethnicity, types of disabilities across the age span, and types of services that individuals with a disability may receive. Although several agency representatives have disabilities, they will not be counted toward the majority membership of people with disabilities and family members.

State: Idaho 11

**Table 2 IATP Advisory Board Members and Their Affiliations**  
**Entity, Population or Region Represented                      Current Representative**

**Education****Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
Workforce Investment Board  
Centers for Independent Living**

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare  
Idaho Council for the Deaf and Hard of  
Hearing  
Idaho Commission for the Blind  
Idaho Commission on Aging  
Area Agencies on Aging

**North Idaho**

North Idaho

Southwest Idaho

**Southwest Idaho****Southeast Idaho****Southeast Idaho**

Southeast Idaho

**Southcentral Idaho**

Native American

Hispanic

**Mark Kuskie \***

**Alan Aamodt \***

**Dr. Jim Schmidt\***

**Tracy Martin \***

Chris Baylis

Wes Maynard

Dusty Bauman \*\*

Cathy Hart

Verna Pitman for Sister A. Marie  
Greving

**Dan Brownell (Chair) \*\***

(Invited)

(Invited)

**Ron Oberleitner \*\***

**Carolyn Jensen \*\***

**Bernie Henscheid \*\***

(To be recruited)

**Ted Roy \*\***

Evelyn Surdam \*\*

Nancy Vasquez \*\*

(**Bold** indicated official voting members)

(\* indicates agency representatives required by AT Act)

(\*\* indicates AT users or family member)

Members of the Advisory Council will become part of the Council in two ways: agency representatives will be appointed by their respective agencies, while consumer representatives will be volunteers solicited through networks of disability organizations and councils throughout the state. The council chair and the project director will be responsible for collecting letters of intent, resumes, and related information for presentation to the Council. Standing council members will seat candidates by majority vote after review of these materials. Particular emphasis will be given to the recruitment of members of under-represented populations and rural populations. Achieving balance across age spans and gender will also be a priority of the recruitment process. Members will be appointed to serve for three-year terms, not to exceed two

State: Idaho 12

consecutive terms, unless the Council agrees to waive this provision by a majority vote of standing members.

3.2 Structure and Operation of the Advisory Council – Describe the structure and operations of the Advisory Council.

The Advisory Council will meet at least four times annually. The Council's winter meeting may be held via telephone conference or compressed video in order to avoid traveling during bad weather and to save costs. The Council will usually meet in Boise, but can choose to meet in other locations by majority vote. The members of the

Council will receive notification by mail or phone about the dates and locations of all meetings at least two weeks in advance of each meeting.

The council chair and project director will develop the agenda for each meeting after requesting input from members about topics of interest. Council development activities - usually a guest presentation or training event - will be conducted at each board meeting. A quorum will be established when a majority of the members are present at regularly scheduled meetings. A written record will be kept of all Council meetings by the IATP staff and will be made available to all members of the Council and members of the public (upon request) no later than two weeks after each meeting.

The IATP Advisory Council will meet all requirements of Idaho's Open Meeting laws. Council meetings will be conducted using an abbreviated version of the Roberts Rules of Order. Decisions deemed worthy of serious debate will be identified as such on each agenda and require a vote of official members. The Advisory Council will also provide oversight for the loan program. The loan program will be an agenda item at every meeting. At the chairperson's discretion, council decisions will be made either through consensus or by member vote. The Council typically will direct its attention to larger, system-wide issues facing Idahoans with

State: Idaho 13

disabilities and will not be involved in day-to-day management of the project. For instance, Council members will not be involved in staff hiring, performance evaluations, or daily budgetary decisions.

The Council will have a chair and vice-chair who each serve for one year. There will be no limit to the number of terms the chair or vice chair may serve. The chair person is required to be a person with a disability or a family member of a person with a disability. This individual will be elected by majority vote of the membership. The chair will be the presiding officer at all Council functions and activities unless otherwise delegated, in writing or verbally, to another council member. The Council will establish ad hoc committees when deemed necessary. These committees will be established on a short-term basis to study issues of concern to the Council.

State: Idaho 14

#### ***Attachment 4: Measurable Goals***

The IATP will establish a baseline for each of the goals 4.1 through 4.7 during Year Two, and will submit after Year Two an amendment identifying the long-term goal and short-term goals set to improve upon this baseline during Year Three and subsequent years of the State Plan. This baseline will be established by using a data collection instrument and procedures to be determined by RSA after the State plan process has been completed.

##### **4.1 Goal for Improving Access to AT in Education**

- Long-term goal:

- Short-term goal for Year 3:

- Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for educational purposes as a result of the assistance they received.

- o Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A data collection not established.

#### **4.2 Goal for Improving Access to AT in Employment**

- Long-term goal:

- o Short-term goal for Year 3:
- o Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for employment purposes as a result of the assistance they received.
- o Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A data collection not established.

#### **4.3 Goal for Improving Access to AT in Community Living**

- Long-term goal:

- o Short-term goal for Year 3:
- o Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs

State: Idaho 15

and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service for community living as a result of the assistance they received.

- o Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A data collection not established.

#### **4.4 Goal for Improving Access to IT and Telecommunications**

- Long-term goal:

- o Short-term goal for Year 3:
- o Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percent of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who accessed device demonstration programs and/or device loan programs and made a decision about an AT device or service that meets an IT/telecommunications need as a result of the assistance they received.
- o Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A data collection not established.

#### **4.5 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Education**

- Long-term goal:

- o Short-term goal for Year 3:
- o Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for educational purposes who would not otherwise have obtained the AT device or service.

- o Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A data collection not established.

#### **4.6 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Employment**



- Long-term goal:
  - o Short-term goal for Year 3:
  - o Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for employment purposes who would not otherwise have obtained the AT device or service.
  - o Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A data collection not established.

#### **4.7 Goal for Improving Acquisition of AT in Community Living**

State: Idaho 16

- Long-term goal:
  - o Short-term goal for Year 3:
  - o Short-term goal for Year 2: Establish baseline of the percentage of appropriate targeted individuals and entities who obtained devices or services from State financing activities or reutilization programs for community living purposes who would not otherwise have obtained the AT device or service.
  - o Short-term goal for Year 1: N/A data collection not established.

4.8 Additional Measurable Goals -- If applicable, describe any measurable goals that the State has set in addition to the goals established in items 4.1 through 4.7 for addressing the assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities in the State related to education, employment, community living, and telecommunications and information technology.

N/A

State: Idaho 17

### **Attachment 5: State-Level Activities**

The IATP now has the capacity to provide the four State-level activities outlined in the AT Act—device demonstrations, device loaning, device reutilization, and alternative financing—in a statewide and comprehensive manner. Last year, our state plan stated that we could only provide three of the four state-level activities in a statewide and comprehensive manner, and we outlined a plan to increase our capacity to operate a statewide and comprehensive equipment reutilization (recycling) program, as described in 5.2. Enough progress has been made toward implementing this plan that device reutilization services are now accessible statewide to Idahoans with disabilities and their families.

In Year One, the capacity of our alternative financing program significantly increased with the appropriation by the Idaho legislature of \$100,000. These funds were included as an enhancement to the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation budget and subsequently were transferred to the Idaho Assistive Technology Special Project Fund at the Idaho Community Foundation. These funds will be used to provide loan guarantees. Also, the IATP provided an additional \$50,000 of its Section 4 funds, which has been placed in the same fund. These funds, in combination with the dollars already held in the Special Project Fund, will ensure that the project can continue to provide loans for assistive technology for many years to come.

In order to ensure its AT services are readily available to individuals with disabilities and their families, guardians, or other authorized representatives, regardless of their type of disability, age, income level, location of residence within the State, or the

type of assistive technology device or service required, the IATP will use four major strategies to implement its State Level activities: (1) enter into agreements with members of Idaho's banking community to operate an alternative financing program; (2) award subcontracts to community-based

State: Idaho 18

organizations across the state to provide AT services; (3) support a network of Assistive Technology Practitioners to provide demonstrations, awareness, training, and assessment services; and (4) maintain a regional AT Demonstration and Loaning Center at its Moscow office. All of the state-level activities directly support one or more of the measurable goals described in Attachment 4.

5.1 State Financing Activities – Describe how the State will implement State financing activities as described in section 4(e)(2)(A) of the AT Act.

Idahoans with disabilities and their families, especially those living in rural areas of the state, still face many barriers when attempting to locate financing for assistive devices. In particular, our data suggests that consumers have few or no options when attempting to finance adaptive vehicles (e.g. wheelchair vans) and home modifications (e.g., adding a wheelchair ramp to a home or widening a doorway). Additionally, our data suggests that some low-income rural elders may have neither the resources nor the access to AT services necessary to acquire even the simplest and least expensive low technology devices.

In response to these pressing needs, the IATP will continue to operate a statewide and comprehensive AT alternative financing program for the coming three years. The Loan Program of the Idaho Assistive Technology Fund (established in 1994) will be the alternative funding mechanism for the purchase of assistive technology for the benefit of persons with disabilities in the State of Idaho. The IATP will be the administrator of the program and a major contributor of assets and technical assistance. Since 1993, the IATP has contributed approximately \$300,000 of its Title I funds to establish the AT loan program. These funds are held at the Idaho Community Foundation (ICF). About \$115,000 of these funds is held in a "special project" account and is used to provide loan guarantees and, in limited cases, support a principle buy-down agreement. As described above, an additional \$150,000 was added to this fund in 2006, which will ensure its

State: Idaho 19

viability for years to come. The balance of the Title I funds are held in the Idaho Assistive Technology Fund (endowment fund). Interest generated by the endowment will be used to support the operations of the loan program and to replenish the special project fund from time to time. To date, Idaho has not received any of the funds available under Title III of the AT Act.

The IATP will continue to share the day-to-day responsibility for operating the loan program with three other entities: the Idaho Community Foundation (ICF), Zions Bank, and KeyBank of Idaho. The ICF, an Idaho-based philanthropic organization, will continue to serve as the administrator of the special project fund (pass-through) and endowment funds, as well as facilitating the guarantee and interest subsidy elements of the program. When a consumer is granted a loan guarantee, the ICF will obligate the guaranteed amount from the IATP special project fund. If a loan goes into default, the ICF will issue a check to the participating bank for the balance of the guaranteed portion

of the loan. (The program has a default rate of approximately 7% since inception, but there have been no defaults in 2005.)

Zion Bank will be the primary lending institution involved with the loan program. Zion assumes a majority of the administrative burden for the loan program under the terms of a contract established in 2000. Zion operates nearly 30 branches statewide and is headquartered in Salt Lake City. Loan officers in local branches will continue to receive training and support materials from the IATP. Keybank of Idaho, N.A., will also participate with the loan program in southern Idaho. Keybank operates more than 20 branches in southern Idaho. The banks offer individuals with disabilities and their families low-interest rates on loans for assistive technology and the option of securing a loan guarantee or a principle buy-down arrangement. The IATP will continue to work with Zions in Year Two to review the existing contract in an effort to clarify those provisions related to the terms and amounts of loans.

State: Idaho 20

The loan program will be accessible to Idahoans with disabilities and their families in all areas of the state. The process of acquiring a loan for assistive technology is simple and begins when a consumer or family member requests an application. The application will be available in any of the participating bank branches and will be available to consumers via regular mail, email, or the IATP's web site. However, an original signed copy of the application must be provided to the project. The project's loan program manager will be available to provide assistance in completing the application. The loan program will not have eligibility criteria in order to qualify for assistance, other than credit history. The loan program will provide loans specifically and only for assistive technology (such as hearing aids, home and vehicle modifications, and computers). The loan application and approval process will be efficient, so individuals often will receive loans and purchase AT sooner than if they waited for funding from public or private sources. Because the IATP will guarantee loans or buy-down the interest, loans will often be provided to individuals with disabilities who would not be able to receive conventional bank loans.

IATP staff will pre-screen all loan applications before they are forwarded to the banks for processing. The IATP staff will check to see if the person has a disability and whether the request fits the broad definition of AT used by the program. The application will then be forwarded electronically to the participating bank. The bank can then choose to approve the loan without a guarantee or principle buy-down arrangement. However, if the bank indicates it will deny a loan without a guarantee or principle buy-down, the IATP will have the discretion to provide a loan guarantee. The loan guarantee will be for between 0% and 100% of the loan total. The project will negotiate the amount of the loan total that will be covered by a guarantee on a case by case basis with the participating lending partner. The process of granting a loan

State: Idaho 21

guarantee will be transparent to the applicant. Loans will not exceed \$10,000 without prior approval of both the IATP and the lending institution.

In Year Two, the IATP's new loan program manager, Irene Lunsford, will significantly increase marketing efforts across the state. For example, she will train all of the branch managers and loan officers working at Zions Bank and will conduct a mass mailing to all discharge and social workers working in Idaho's hospitals and

rehabilitation clinics. Ms. Lunsford will also attend a number of Fairs and conferences in Year Two.

The project will engage in one other line of activity that will increase the availability of funding for AT. At the request of several regional Medicaid Units, the IATP acts as a funding mechanism for the purchase of equipment that is sold by vendors who do not have a Medicaid Provider Number. For instance, if a Medicaid waiver-eligible-individual needs an item sold by Sears Home Health, Inc., which is not certified as a Medicaid provider, the IATP will purchase the item and get reimbursed by Medicaid using its own provider number. This mechanism is available to Medicaid Units statewide but is typically underused. In Year Two, efforts will be made to increase the use of this funding option for Medicaid recipients.

5.2 Device Reutilization Program – Describe how the State will implement a device reutilization program as described in section 4 (e)(2)(B) of the Act.

This section describes the plan that the IATP will implement to increase the capacity of the existing equipment reutilization program to provide statewide and comprehensive services. In Year One, the project made sufficient progress to ensure that its device reutilization services are now available statewide. For example, staff increased their knowledge about best practices for providing this service by attending teleconferences and national conferences, and used this new knowledge to conduct planning activities. In Year One, we also started implementing the

State: Idaho 22

activities described in our planning process, and will continue to do so in Year Two and subsequent years as described in the following paragraphs from last year's state plan.

In order to increase the capacity of the reutilization program, the IATP will continue to expand the reutilization program throughout Years 2 and 3. The project will work to increase the scope of the program and further enhance its capacity to provide statewide services.

Year 1 Expansion of the Statewide and Comprehensive Equipment Reutilization Program Web Site

During Year One, the IATP redesigned and restructured the website. For more information about this, see Attachment 8. On the IATP website, Equipment Reutilization listings are added and maintained by IATP staff. If an individual has an AT device he or she no longer needs and would like to either sell or give away, he or she can contact the IATP through the accessible website or the existing toll free telephone line and request to post an ad.

After the restructuring of the Reutilization Program, the website will allow individuals to add, modify, and remove their own items. If an individual would like to list a device for sale or give-away, the person would complete the appropriate form on the website, including as much information about the device as possible. Used AT device listings will include a brief description of the device, the asking price, and the city and state where the device is located. The seller's email address may also be listed, if permitted by the seller. When the form is submitted, it will be directed to the email of an IATP staff member who will then review it for content. If additional information is needed, a follow-up email or call will be made to the seller. If it is complete, IATP staff

will activate the listing so it can be viewed on the web site. Terms of listing a device will remain the same as in years past:

- The IATP does not warrant the condition of the device.

State: Idaho 23

- The IATP accepts no liability that may result between the transaction of the buyer and the seller.
- The seller agrees to provide the original price and sold price of the item.
- The seller provides the IATP with a description of the device along with any special features.
- The seller agrees to provide the IATP with contact information with the understanding that no personal information is listed on the web site except for city location and state.
- The seller must renew the listing every 90 days or the item will automatically be removed from the list.

One difference between the old item listings and the new item listings will be the addition of the seller's email. The seller can "opt out" of having the email address displayed on the web, but this will allow IATP staff to contact the sellers regarding their listings. This will also allow a buyer to directly contact the seller if the email address is displayed.

If a person does not have internet access and would like to add a device, they will contact the IATP by calling the toll free telephone line to provide the appropriate information. The device will then be added to the web site by IATP staff. Hard copies will be made of each listing, and will be used for faxing and mailing of information to interested parties. Listings will also be included in all quarterly newsletters, which are mailed out to thousands of disability-related agencies, organizations, and consumers around the state.

If an individual with a disability or family member is looking for a used device, he or she will contact the project by email or the toll free telephone line. They will be directed to the IATP web site to browse through the listings at their leisure or, if internet is not available, the sales

State: Idaho 24

information will be faxed or mailed to the interested buyer. The seller and buyer will negotiate the terms of exchanging the device, including price and shipping, between themselves without any involvement of project staff.

Anyone in the state will be able to sell or buy an AT device through the IATP reutilization program and there will be no limitations on the type of AT device that can be listed. The program will only be limited by what devices the sellers themselves choose to make available.

The IATP will help individuals with disabilities obtain AT devices in many ways. First, because the devices are used, sellers usually will offer them for free or at a low price, meaning they are more affordable. Second, individuals with disabilities do not need to meet eligibility criteria to obtain the devices. Third, the program will make available devices that are not covered by other private and public funding. Fourth, the project will be a source for some devices that are no longer manufactured. Fifth, individuals with

disabilities often will get devices sooner through the want ads than if they waited for funding from public or private sources.

As already mentioned, the IATP restructured its web site in Year One. It is worth noting that the IATP's website was restructured, in part, so that in Year Two and subsequent years, the site will have a greater capacity to collect more accurate data from consumers. Rather than using the website only to create an initial contact between seller and buyer, the website was changed to require that the seller and buyer register and conduct their transaction using the website.

In Year Two, the IATP will work with Medicaid to develop a method of attaching a message to each piece of DME distributed to recipients that directs them to contact the project when the equipment is no longer needed. During Year Three, this effort will expand to include

State: Idaho 25

finding ways to contact consumers who received DME through Medicaid prior to this program going into effect.

Products and Mailing Lists

The IATP will develop (or obtain from another state and adopt) a variety of public awareness products for advertising the program. These products will include a brochure, fact sheets, and a video related to its equipment reutilization program. To support the distribution of these products, the project will develop mailing lists of targeted public and private entities. Information about the newly developed reutilization program will be disseminated in mailings, at presentations, and through displays at in-state conferences.

The IATP has developed new products and has compiled new mailing lists which will be utilized in Year Two to better disseminate information about the AT reutilization program across the state. The IATP has restructured its web site and, as part of this process, is attempting to infuse the web-based AT reutilization software developed in Delaware. However, some technical difficulties have prevented this activity from being completed as quickly as hoped. In Year Two, we will resolve these technical problems by creating our own version of Delaware's Equipment Exchange and our on-line AT reutilization service will become available to Idahoans with disabilities.

#### Year 2 Increase the Capacity of the Equipment Reutilization Program to Provide Services Statewide

Public Awareness to Target Groups and Entities

The IATP will expand the scope of the Reutilization Program by continuing to advertise it to target individuals and entities, especially state agencies, during Year 2. This campaign will focus on encouraging the thousands of individuals with disabilities who have received durable medical equipment through Idaho's Medicaid program to recycle this equipment through the

State: Idaho 26

program. Toward this end, the equipment reutilization program will be linked to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare's CARELINE system. This will increase the selection of equipment available to Idahoans. The campaign will include directed mailings to key stakeholders, and presentations at in-state conferences in Year 2.

Implement Task Force Recommendations

The Task Force discussed in Attachment 9 will be examining the question of equipment reutilization. The Task Force is responsible for generating specific

recommendations. These recommendations will identify the barriers in Idaho for implementing a statewide and comprehensive equipment reutilization program, identify key stakeholders in state agencies that pay for AT devices and services, identify how other rural states provide statewide and comprehensive equipment reutilization programs, and identify resources to support a statewide and comprehensive equipment reutilization program. The IATP will use these recommendations to refine efforts to establish a statewide and comprehensive equipment reutilization program. The Task Force is holding its last meeting on August 29, 2006, and its recommendations will be released later this fall. The IATP will act to implement those recommendations related to equipment reutilization after analysis by the IATP Advisory Council is completed.

Year 3 Continue to Increase the Scope of the Program and Evaluate its Impact on Targeted Individuals and Entities

The IATP will continue to advertise the equipment utilization program statewide and to implement the recommendations of the Task Force in Year 3, and will also step up efforts to use our data to evaluate and refine the program. Data collection activities will align with the requirements of the AT Act, and will also contain elements that address issues identified by the Advisory Council.

State: Idaho 27

5.3 Device Loan Program – Describe how the State will implement a device loan program as described in section 4(e)(2)(C) of the Act.

In Year Two, the IATP will operate a statewide and comprehensive device loan program, primarily through its partnerships with United Cerebral Palsy (UCP), the Coeur d'Alene Hand Therapy and Healing Center (HTC), the Idaho Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and by operating its own regional AT Center. The IATP will provide AT devices to these three partners while the partners manage the day-to-day operations of device loan program and collect program data.

The Equipment Lending Library at UCP is the only statewide assistive technology and developmental toy lending library in the State of Idaho. People of any age and with any type of disability will be able to choose from among more than 2,200 library items to borrow. These items include communication devices, adaptive computer hardware and software, independent living aids, mobility items, and educational books and videos. Items for children include developmental toys, early learning software, adapted toys, children's books, mobility aids, switch-operated toys, and many others. The IATP will market the short-term equipment loan program on its fully accessible web site, through ads in its quarterly newsletter, and through flyers distributed to disability-related agencies and organizations.

Like a public library, individuals who use the UCP Lending Library will check out devices or toys for specific periods of time, and any item may be renewed if there is no waiting list for it. Devices will be shipped to consumers and professionals statewide at no cost. UCP staff will be available to help those who need it with the selection of appropriate devices and toys. Staff will also provide referrals to other resources if we do not have a specific item or if other types of services are needed.

State: Idaho 28

The IATP will also maintain a north Idaho AT Demonstration Center at the Hand Therapy and Healing Center in Coeur d'Alene, where consumers and professionals will

be able to borrow equipment. Though its inventory is smaller than UCP's, the Center will have the capacity to loan a large number of devices to individuals with disabilities. The north Idaho Center will not maintain a large selection of augmentative communication systems, but will have an excellent selection of computers and computer access equipment, education software, and many low technology devices. The Center will contain several adjustable computer workstations.

As described below, the IATP will also support the seven Hearing Assistance Centers operated by the Idaho Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. These centers will loan hearing assistance equipment to individuals with disabilities and older persons on a case by case basis.

The agreement with these partners prohibits them from denying a loan based on the age, race, type of disability, income, or location in the state of the applicant. The only reason a loan would be denied is if the device is not in stock. If the device is currently in stock – meaning one of the partners has the device in its inventory and it is not currently being loaned - the partner will ship that device to any location in the state. If the device is not in stock, the requestor will be put on a waiting list. If none of the partners has the device in its inventory, the requestor will be referred to the appropriate vendor and/or to the device reutilization program.

By allowing individuals with disabilities and professionals to borrow AT devices, the IATP will offer Idahoans an opportunity to try out a device before they buy and allow clinicians a chance to use a device to assess clients. It will also meet interim needs of individuals with disabilities whose own devices are being repaired by providing a loaner device.

**5.4 Device Demonstration Program** – Describe how the State will implement a device demonstration program as described in section 4(e)(2)(D) of the Act.

State: Idaho 29

The IATP will operate a statewide and comprehensive AT demonstration program by assisting in supporting three regional AT Centers, seven regional Hearing Assistance Centers, and a network of Assistive Technology Practitioners (ATPs). As described throughout this application, the IATP helps to fund three assistive technology demonstration centers in Idaho: United Cerebral Palsy of Idaho in Boise, the Hand Therapy and Healing Center in Coeur d'Alene, and the IATP office in Moscow. UCP is the largest facility, but all three centers maintain a wide array of devices. Consumers will be able to visit these sites and experiment with various devices, or they can receive a demonstration from staff. One staff member at UCP is RESNA certified, and two of the staff at the Coeur d'Alene Hand Therapy and Healing Center received RESNA certification in the spring of 2006. All ATPs are RESNA-certified individuals working in a variety of settings, but mostly in education. The IATP will expand its network of ATPs this year by offering five more scholarships to individuals eligible for RESNA certification.

The IATP spends about \$4,000 annually to place equipment in Hearing Assistance Centers across the State and will continue this practice. These Centers will be maintained by the Idaho Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and are designed to provide a place where people can see and try out various assistive listening devices. These Centers are placed in an array of organizations including two area offices on aging, UCP, Idaho State University, and three of Idaho's Centers for Independent Living.



The IATP will utilize its network of RESNA-certified ATPs to provide demonstrations to Idahoans with disabilities and other targeted groups. Beginning in 1999, the project has supported a group of approximately 20 ATPs to assist in providing AT assessments, demonstrations, and trainings to Individual Education Plan (IEP)

Teams, VR counselors,

State: Idaho 30

professionals working in the aging network, and many other interested parties. The IATP provided scholarships to these individuals to assist them in obtaining their RESNA certifications and will continue to provide ongoing training and technical assistance.

The network of ATPs will be capable of providing AT demonstrations in remote areas of the state upon request. A device demonstration is often the first step in the process of selecting the most appropriate equipment for an individual. For instance, if the IATP receives a request from a rural school district for an AT assessment, the ATP who lives closest to that school and possesses the appropriate expertise will receive a referral. In preparation for visiting the school, the ATP will borrow equipment, typically from UCP, the Hand Therapy and Healing Center, or from the IATP office, and will utilize the equipment to provide demonstrations to members of the IEP Team.

The IATP facilitates and coordinates but does not perform these assessments. The formal assessments are performed by members of the network of about 25 assistive technology practitioners maintained and supported by the IATP. These practitioners are private contractors who are paid using funds from the subcontract with the Idaho Department of Education or, in some cases, other state agencies.

The demonstration programs will be designed to offer individuals with disabilities, their families, and professionals the opportunity to experience a number of different devices while being guided by experts. Allowing them to compare different devices will help them to make an informed decision about what device to purchase or whether to purchase a device at all.

In Year One, the project initiated efforts to establish a small AT Demonstration site in southeast Idaho by releasing a “request for proposals” to 18 entities across that region of the state. No applications were submitted. The IATP just completed a brief survey to better

State: Idaho 31

understand why no entities applied for funding. This process led to the identification of two entities that have a strong interest in establishing an AT Center. In Year Two, efforts to establish an AT Demonstration Center in southeast Idaho will continue.

State: Idaho 32

## **Attachment 6: Comparable Support**

6.1 Source and Amount of Support – Identify the State-level activity for which there is comparable support, the source of this support, the amount of the support, and the project year for which this support is being provided.

N/A

6.2 Comparability -- Demonstrate that this support is comparable in terms of funding and that the activities are comparable in terms of scope.

N/A

6.3 Coordination and Collaboration – Describe how the State will coordinate activities and collaborate with the appropriate entity, if the comparable funds are provided to, or the activities are conducted by, an entity other than the Lead Agency or Implementing Entity.

N/A

State: Idaho 33

### **Attachment 7: State Flexibility**

7.1 Activity – Identify each State-level activity the State is choosing not to carry out

N/A

7.2 Maintenance of Statewideness and Comprehensiveness – Demonstrate that the Statewide AT Program will continue to be comprehensive without conducting this activity.

N/A

7.3 Achievement of Measurable Goals - Demonstrate that the State can reach its measurable education goals, employment goals, telecommunications and information technology goals, and community living goals without conducting such activities.

N/A

7.4 Coordination and Collaboration – Describe how the Lead Agency or Implementing Entity will coordinate activities and collaborate with entities in the State that do conduct this activity, if the State chooses not to conduct this activity because another entity already conducts it.

N/A

State: Idaho 34

### ***Attachment 8: State Leadership Activities***

8.1 Training and Technical Assistance Activities – Describe how the State will provide training and technical assistance to enhance the knowledge, skills, and competencies of individuals from local settings statewide, including representatives of State and local educational agencies, other State and local agencies, early intervention programs, adult service programs, hospitals and other health care facilities, institutions of higher education and businesses as described in section 4(e)(3)(B)(i) of the AT Act.

#### **Local Education Agencies, Early Intervention, and Secondary Transition Programs**

In Year Two, the IATP will deliver training and technical assistance to the target individuals and entities in a statewide and comprehensive manner. For children eligible for services under the IDEA and IDEA Part C, as well as for students who are preparing to transition to adult life, training and technical assistance (8.1) and public awareness (8.2) activities will be conducted using funds made available to the IATP under the terms of its subcontract with the Idaho State Department of Education (SDE). Between 1993 and 2004, the budget for the subcontract has varied from a low of \$45,000 to a high of over \$100,000. The subcontract for FY 2006-07 is \$81,000.

Council for Exceptional Children Conference: The IATP will conduct awareness activities related to the benefits of AT for educators and other school staff. The prime example is ongoing involvement of the IATP in the annual Idaho Council for Exceptional Children conference held each October. This is the only annual conference for special education staff in Idaho. In Year Two, the project will play a large role in planning for

the conference and one of the themes of the conference will be the application of AT. Staff will provide presentations, display information about AT in the conference's vendor hall, and set up an AT mini-lab at this conference.

District Training: The project will offer district trainings at the local level. All districts will have an opportunity to request an in-service training related to AT. Mailings and emails will

State: Idaho 35

be sent to district administrators, special educators, counselors, and related service providers at least quarterly to include information on how to access in-service trainings and other services supported by the subcontract. In Year Two, the IATP will initiate an "AT Lunch" series. This series will consist of two-hour trainings in rural school districts. Teachers, administrators, and related service providers will have an extended lunch period (much easier to provide than an out-of-town or all-day training) to learn about the Fundamental Assessment Process (FAP) and the continuum of one aspect of assistive technology. To launch the "AT Lunch" series, the Assistive Technology & Technical Assistance (ATTA) Project staff will directly solicit 20-25 school districts to receive two trainings during the school year. The first two "AT Lunch" series will be developed around the Continuum of AT Devices and Software for Communication and Computer Access, the two most requested areas to assess.

Assistive Technology Learning Community: In order to provide follow-up support for educators and related service providers, the clearinghouse web site maintained at the Center on Disabilities and Human Development (CDHD) will be used as the platform for establishing an assistive technology "Learning Community." The project will research and compile existing training materials to include real time videos, vignettes, and other AT resources available at the national level that will be incorporated into the learning community.

The Assistive Technology Electronic Learning Community was launched in February 2006 on the Idaho Training Clearinghouse website, [www.idahotc.com](http://www.idahotc.com). Since its launch, the AT Electronic Learning Community has gained 53 members and has had 1,122 visitors. In Year Two, the IATP will continue to enhance the electronic learning community and to market its availability to educators and parents.

State: Idaho 36

Assistive Technology Consideration Wheel: The project purchased and disseminated 1,000 copies of the Assistive Technology Consideration "Quick Wheel" to all school districts and special education teachers in Idaho. This activity will not be repeated in the coming two years of the State Plan.

Assistive Technology in the Schools: A Guide for Idaho Educators: The IATP will update the manual (2001) with new forms and current AT resources once the new IDEA regulations are released by the federal government. These regulations were released this past year, and project staff will work with staff from the State Department of Education in Year Two to revise the AT Guide. Copies will be printed and disseminated to the schools and placed on the IATP website for printing at no cost to the schools in Years Two and Three. This manual is currently being utilized in Idaho school districts to support the delivery of AT services and is also being used at Idaho Institutions of Higher Education in teacher preparation programs to provide an overview of assistive technology.

AT Assessments: Under the terms of its subcontract with the Idaho Department of Education, the IATP receives funds to facilitate and coordinate the provision of assistive technology assessment services to children with disabilities. These services are available statewide. As a part of these services, the IATP utilizes its network of ATPs to provide AT assessments to IEP teams that are considering acquiring an AT device or service for a specific student, but feel they don't have the experience or expertise to make a decision about a device. The focus of the assessment will be child-centered and team-based. School districts will apply for these services on-line through the IATP's web site. When a district requests an AT assessment, project staff will review the request and assign the ATP who is most qualified to evaluate the particular student's needs. After the on-site assessment has been conducted, the ATP

State: Idaho 37

will create a report including specific recommendations for devices and needed supports, and provide the report to the school district. The ATPs will also provide follow-up training to schools where assessments have been performed. The IATP uses its SDE funds to pay the ATPs for providing the assessments. The ATPs are private contractors and do not work directly for the IATP. The current rate for an assessment is \$63.00 per hour or \$500.00 for an entire day on-site.

The project performed 41 school-based assessments in the 2005-06 school year, up from 28 assessments achieved in 2004-05. Most AT assessments are sought for students of elementary school age. There is a sharp decline in assessments requested for students at the junior high and high school levels. Since AT assessment should be a dynamic and ongoing process, assessments should be evenly distributed over the age groups. In Year Two, the project will be focusing on increasing AT assessments overall and especially at the junior high and high school levels.

AT State-Wide Buy-In. The IATP will be involved with the Idaho Department of Education in implementing a state-wide buy-in for school districts again this year. The project will use \$2,500 of SDE funds to purchase educational software program in bulk, which in turn will be made available to districts for purchase. School districts can purchase the software at a reduced price from the project.

**Other State and local agencies, adult service programs, hospitals and other health care facilities, institutions of higher education, and businesses**

The project will use the staff at the three regional centers, its own staff, the network of ATPs, and occasionally, out-of-state trainers to provide statewide and comprehensive training and technical assistance for other State and local agencies, adult service programs, hospitals and other health care facilities, institutions of higher education, and businesses. Training in a wide variety of AT-related topics will be delivered upon request anywhere in the state. Training will

State: Idaho 38

be delivered using a variety of methods. For example, in many cases, an entity will request short duration training as part of an in-service training event or conference. In other situations, an agency will request more comprehensive training for a full day or longer. In either case, the project will arrange for experts in areas such as education, recreation, vocational rehabilitation, and community living to provide training sessions on AT issues in their fields. Keynote speakers will provide updates on important AT policies and legislation.

In Year Two, the IATP will complete development of training materials in the areas of AT Funding and AT for Individuals with Cognitive Impairments. In the spring of 2006, the IATP conducted a field test of these materials and is currently revising the training manual. These training modules will be use in Year Two to conduct day long regional workshops in all areas of the state. These workshops feature a half day of training related to Funding for AT and the second half of the day training on AT for Individuals with Cognitive Impairments.

**AT Centers:** The regional AT centers will provide training and ongoing technical assistance related to AT statewide. Typically, the AT centers will provide skill-building training to the target individuals and entities. The majority of training is related to computer access and takes place in their computer laboratories. For example, UCP will provide a series of training events each year, mostly directed at students with disabilities who are transitioning out of high school. UCP will also conduct a summer computer camp that is available to students with disabilities throughout the state. Lastly, the IATP relies on the staff of the AT regional centers to provide short duration training sessions at a number of in-state, disability-related conferences that are held in the Boise area. IATP staff cannot always travel to Boise for these events, and the regional center's staff is often asked to participate.

State: Idaho 39

**IATP Staff:** The project maintains a half-time training coordinator, a full-time information and public awareness specialist, and a full-time project director, all of whom deliver trainings throughout the year. For instance, the director conducts day-long workshops in all areas of the state each year. The project's information specialist often provides short duration and device demonstrations on campus, at Health Fairs, and many other events. In some instances, the project will sponsor or co-sponsor training events that feature an out-of-state expert on a particular topic related to AT. AT vendors will display and provide information about a wide range of devices to serve the needs of many people with different types of disabilities.

**Older Persons and AT Curriculum:** The IATP has developed a training curriculum related to AT and Older Persons, and will continue to use this in Year Two and subsequent years to provide training to older persons and professionals working in the aging network. These workshops are delivered in day-long events held in each of the seven Department of Health and Welfare regions of the state and in close collaboration with the Area Agencies on Aging. The curriculum is also used to do guest lectures in various classes related to aging taught on campus.

**Project Vote:** Using funds provided by the Idaho Council for Developmental Disabilities, the IATP is participating with a coalition of Idahoans with disabilities and other interested parties in an effort to increase the involvement of Idahoans with disabilities in the electoral process. The project's director was the principle author of a proposal submitted to the Idaho Secretary of State and funded in October 2004. The project, entitled Project Vote, was comprised of two phases and is funded with Help America Vote Act (HAVA) dollars. The first phase was implemented just before the November 2004 election. Phase II is more comprehensive in scope and includes provisions related to accessible voting technology.

State: Idaho 40

In 2005, Idaho selected the AutoMark as the accessible voting technology to be used in our state's polling places. In Year Two, as the mid-term election approaches, the IATP will continue to participate in implementing the Project Vote program. This includes meeting with county clerks and arranging training for poll place workers related to accessible voting technology. In Year Two and subsequent years, the project will continue to provide technical assistance to consumers and policy makers related to accessible voting technology upon request.

**Pre-Service AT Training:** A core mission of the IATP is to increase the knowledge and skills related to assistive technology among Idaho's disability workforce leading to the adoption and use of established best practices. To this end, the project will provide support to courses of instruction for the special education department at the University of Idaho and will provide materials to other personnel preparation programs in higher education. These efforts are mostly directed at K-12 education, special education, and aging programs; however, staff will provide guest lectures in architecture, interior design, human factors, engineering, law, recreation, and other classes at the UI. The project will continue to sponsor Section 508 training for UI web masters.

**In-State Disability Conferences:** Project staff will conduct presentations, information displays, posters, and provide short duration training at in-state conferences. In Year Two, staff will be participating at the annual Medicaid in-service conference, the VR annual in-service conference, the Idaho Service Provider conference, the Idaho Federation for Exceptional Children conference, and the Governor's Conference Summit on Aging, in addition to its own "Tools for Life" conference in March of 2007. In Year One, the director of the IATP was invited to participate in a statewide planning committee for the 2007 Independent Living Conference. This event will take place on February 5-8, 2007.

State: Idaho 41

**Training for Employment Professionals:** The IATP has a Memorandum of Agreement with the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to provide training about AT to all new vocational rehabilitation counselors in the state each year and to train its existing workforce. The project will be participating in the annual VR in-service conference to be held in southeast Idaho this year. Instructional sessions as well as an AT Demonstration Room will be offered at this event. Training will focus on providing a basic understanding of AT and using AT in the workplace, and the project anticipates participating in the conference in Year Three as well.

**ATP Follow-up Training:** The network of ATPs will have the capacity to provide training and technical assistance to target individuals and entities anywhere in the state. In most instances, this support will be provided in follow-up to an AT assessment and will be focused on training the individual to appropriately use their new device.

## Transition

The AT Act requires that state AT programs specifically focus on training and technical assistance during times of transition. This includes transition for students with disabilities who are leaving high school for employment or post-secondary education and transition for those entering or maintaining community living. Under the terms of its subcontract with the SDE, the project will conduct the "Tools for Life: Secondary Transition and Technology Fair" each year in collaboration with the Idaho Interagency Council on

Secondary Transition. The conference is a two-day event offered to students, professionals, and families from across the state. In addition to the many instructional sessions provided, many national vendors and local providers will participate in the conference. The next conference will be held in March 2007. This conference will serve a dual role by providing both public awareness and training, and will be geared to serve the needs of experts and novices alike.

State: Idaho 42

The IATP will also focus its resources on promoting the transition of individuals with disabilities into the community. In Year Two, the project will collaborate with the State Independent Living Council to sponsor an in-state conference in February 2007.

The project will develop a training module directed at employees of nursing homes and other supported living environments, family members, and consumers with disabilities to provide them with the skills and knowledge they need to successfully include AT in all transition planning. Elements of this training also will be infused in the general AT training provided to centers for independent living.

8.2 Public Awareness Activities – Describe how the State will provide information to targeted individuals and entities relating to the availability, benefits, appropriateness, and costs of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services as described in section 4(e)(3)(B)(ii) of the AT Act.

In Year Two, the project will conduct public awareness activities in a statewide and comprehensive manner leading to greater awareness about AT in Year Three and subsequent years. This capacity will be manifested in the many products that have been developed over the years and will be developed in the coming three years: the ability of staff to provide professional presentations, displays and posters at in-state conferences; the multitude of dissemination avenues available to the IATP; and most importantly, the willingness of the project's many partners to help spread the word about the benefits of AT.

In 2004, the project reorganized its public awareness activities by developing a new marketing plan. The plan is and will continue to be directed at critical audiences including key policy makers and health care planners, the disability and aging workforce, consumers and their families, educators, Idaho's medical community, public libraries, Idaho's banking community, and other interested parties in Year Two and subsequent years. The marketing plan takes advantage of a number of dissemination methods including an information and referral telephone

State: Idaho 43

line, a web site, mass mailings, radio public service announcements, professional presentations, displays and posters at conferences, publications, letters to the editor, emails, and other disability-related newsletters published in Idaho. This plan is condensed into a "marketing calendar" that is used by staff to guide its weekly public awareness activities.

**Information and Referral:** The toll-free IDA-TECH system provides free information and referral services on AT for people of all ages with all disabilities. Family members, service providers, and others who work in fields related to disabilities or AT may also use this service. Staff provides callers with information on the availability, benefits, appropriateness, and cost of AT devices and services. In addition, staff mails AT resource and device information directly to callers to enable them to make more informed

decisions. A consumer satisfaction survey will be mailed to callers approximately six months following the call to determine if they are satisfied with the information provided by the IATP or if they need additional information.

**Newsletter:** The Spud Tech newsletter is developed and disseminated both in hard copy and on the web site by the project on a quarterly basis. Regular sections of the newsletter include information on: current events at the IATP, highlights of AT (which discusses features of specific AT devices), an insert that provides the latest equipment recycling inventory, web site resources on AT, and during legislative session, an update on disability-related legislation.

**Web Site:** The IATP will maintain a Section 508 compliant web site. This web site will be a major avenue for disseminating information about the benefits of AT. It will feature in-depth information on the AT Act of 1998, as amended, as well as information on other programs the IATP is involved with outside of the AT Act of 1998 as amended: publications, IT access resources, legislation, AT resources, and links. The web site also provides an opportunity for individuals to directly contact the project's staff for purposes of feedback, information and

**State: Idaho 44**

referral, buying or selling used equipment, and an on-line application for the state alternative financing program. The staff regularly updates the contents of the web site in order to advertise upcoming events, provide policy updates, share recent news about the project and staff, give product information, and provide updates on national legislative initiatives related to AT. The web site will also provide valuable links to related web sites for AT users.

The IATP did restructure its web site this past year (spring 2006). The purpose of the revisions was to update the appearance of the web site and to accommodate major changes in the reutilization features of the web site. The new web site ([www.idahoat.org](http://www.idahoat.org)) will be central to the reutilization program.

**Publications and Display Unit:** Training materials and publications that cover AT information have been developed and disseminated for all types of audiences across the life span on a broad array of AT related issues. All publication materials will be provided free of charge on the web site and are made available in any requested alternative format. In 2004, the project purchased a new and much larger display unit. The display unit will be used to present information about AT and the IATP at a number of conferences. A number of new public awareness products will be developed to support its use. These include print materials, a services brochure, a new set of flyers for various presentations, and other promotional materials. A PowerPoint presentation will be part of the new display unit. In the next three years, a number of public awareness materials will be translated into Spanish and, as always, all of our products are available in alternative format — cassette, large print, CD, Braille, etc. — upon request.

**8.3 Coordination and Collaboration** – Describe how the State will coordinate activities among public and private entities that are responsible for policies, procedures, or funding for the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services to individuals with disabilities, service providers, and others to improve access to assistive technology devices and assistive technology services as described in section 4(e)(3)(B)(iii) of the AT Act.

- o This includes describing coordination and collaboration with:



State: Idaho 45

- (a) if applicable, the State's Alternative Financing Program; and
- (b) the State protection and advocacy for assistive technology program supported under section 5 of the AT Act.

Because coordination and collaboration with public and private entities often is based on emerging, new, or changing policies and procedures, it is difficult to anticipate all of the coordination and collaboration activities that the IATP will undertake over the next three years. In the past, coordination and collaboration involved the proposal of new policies or changes to current AT policies, providing input on proposed AT policies, and analysis of the impact of current AT policies. The IATP does this by participating on task forces sponsored by state agencies; by being a member of consumer groups, advocacy groups, and disability networks throughout the state; and through independent efforts. In the next three years, the project anticipates participating in the activities described below.

The IATP will promote the coordination of AT services in Idaho and encourage collaborations between target individuals and entities in a statewide and comprehensive manner in the next three years. The major strategy for accomplishing this goal is through the IATP Advisory Council as described in Attachment 3. Another significant effort related to this goal will be the convening of a state-level Task Force. This Task Force will be convened in the Fall of 2005 by the State Independent Living Council at the request of the project's Advisory Council. The IATP will provide financial as well as material support for the Task Force. Ideally, the group is scheduled to meet in five one-day sessions over ten months and will be comprised of individuals with disabilities, state legislators, agency representatives, and other interested parties.

So far this year, the Task Force has met twice, and will have its final meeting on August 29, 2006. The final meeting of the Task Force will address the issues of Accessible Information Technology and Employment. Recommendations will be developed around each of these areas

State: Idaho 46

and will be combined with the recommendations developed during previous meetings and compiled into a final report. These recommendations will lead to a variety of activities that will promote the interagency coordination goals of the IATP.

A final report containing the approved recommendations will be completed by November. Below are the unofficial results of the first two meetings, but these are not "official" until the SILC has submitted its final recommendations.

The purpose of the Task Force is to:

- Collect information about the availability of assistive technology in the areas of education, health care, employment, transportation, information technology, and housing.
- Identify systemic barriers to the acquisition and use of assistive technology in the areas of education, health care, employment, transportation, information technology, and housing (across the age span).
- Identify and implement strategies for addressing these barriers.
- Identify and implement strategies to increase funding resources for assistive technology and information technology.
- Develop an action plan that includes specific and detailed recommendations.

In addition to maintaining the Advisory Council and convening a state-level Task Force, the IATP will conduct a limited number of policy and regulatory activities that increase the availability of AT in Idaho. As described below, these policy areas include:

- Information and Telecommunication Technology
- Accessible Voting Technology
- Education Technology in Schools
- Appropriations for AT Alternative Financing Programs
- Medicaid Waivers

**Information and Telecommunication Technologies:** The project will conduct policy initiatives that result in the development and adoption by Idaho state government of new standards for accessible information & telecommunication technology. For example, in 2004 the

State: Idaho 47

project submitted a revised draft of an executive order (EO) related to accessible information technology to the Office of the Governor. This revised EO is currently being reviewed by the staff at the Office of the Governor. The EO will require state agencies to comply with Section 508, beyond what the current state guidelines suggest. The IATP will continue efforts to gain the approval of the Governor for the EO.

**Accessible Voting Technology:** In Year One, along with its partners, the IATP conducted policy initiatives that resulted in the development and adoption by Idaho of new standards for voting machines. This resulted in the selection of the AutoMark for use in all of Idaho's polling places. The IATP will provide technical assistance to the HAVA Task Force as needed in Year Two. In Year Two and subsequent years, the IATP will continue to offer technical assistance and training related to accessible voting technology to consumers and to participate with the Project Vote initiative.

**Education Technology:** The IATP will conduct policy initiatives that result in the development, adoption, and implementation of a state plan for education technology that includes accessibility standards for information technology and other provisions that impact students with disabilities. In 2003, after a four-year effort, Idaho's Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Legislature adopted a new state plan for governing the planning, purchasing, and use of education technology in Idaho schools. The plan, for the first time, requires school districts to consider the needs of students with disabilities as they plan for, purchase, and implement education technology at the district level and to comply with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. In 2004 school districts were required, for the first time, to submit technology plans that address the new provisions of the state plan. In Year Two, the IATP will continue to monitor these activities.

State: Idaho 48

**Appropriation for Alternative Financing Program:** The project will conduct policy initiatives that result in an appropriation from the state general fund to support a statewide alternative financing program for AT. In 2005, the director of the IATP worked closely with our local representative to the legislature to arrange for submittal of an appropriations bill to the Joint Finance and Appropriation Committee for \$100,000. These funds were to be used as match to the Title III federal funds. This request was rejected by the JFAC committee. The project will continue these efforts if Congress once again appropriates funds for the alternative financing program for AT. This past year, the

IATP was successful in gaining approval for an appropriation of \$100,000 from the Idaho Legislature to support the AT Alternative Financing Program (see Attachment 10). Medicaid Waivers and AT: The project will monitor all regulatory activities within the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare which impact the funding of AT and durable medical equipment. As in past years, the project will work with the protection and advocacy agency in Idaho in these efforts. In particular, the project will focus its monitoring activities on regulations impacting the provision of home and community-based programs. Idaho has four Medicaid waiver programs that provide AT and home modification services. Project staff will continue to provide technical assistance in several areas including eligible processes, capacity of the service provider community to provide AT services, and overall quality of care.

The project staff will also participate on a number of disability related state-level and federal regional councils, resulting in an increase in interagency coordination and the adoption of policies that increase the use of AT. The project director continues to represent the project on the State Rehabilitation Council and the Consortium for Idahoans with Disabilities. In Year Two, project staff will seek membership on the Special Education Advisory Council.

State: Idaho 49

## Attachment 9: **Involvement of Public and Private Entities**

**9.1 Nature and Extent of Resources** – Describe the nature and extent of resources that will be committed by public and private collaborators to assist in accomplishing identified goals.

As described in Attachment 5, the IATP will work with the Hand Therapy and Healing Center, the Idaho Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and United Cerebral Palsy to implement its device demonstration and lending program, as well as to help with other state leadership activities. Each of these partners will provide storage space for AT devices free of charge as an in-kind contribution. They also will provide general administrative support for the program such as office supplies, telephone, printing, and postage, as in-kind contributions.

The IATP receives limited state resources and awards funds from community-based organizations to help provide its services. In many cases, the project utilizes in-kind support from a variety of entities. Table 3 displays a list of the organizations that have some type of financial interaction with the project or provide in-kind contribution to the project's activities.

**Table 3: Nature and Extent of Resources**

<b>Entity</b>	<b>Nature and Extent of Resources</b>	<b>Information about Partnership</b>
State Department of Education	Provides \$81,000 (FY 05) subcontract to IATP for AT services to school districts	State Education Agency
Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation	The IATP and the IDVR have a Memorandum of Agreement for AT assessment services which generates \$2,000 to \$4,000 annually	State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency
Zions Bank & Key Bank	Administer AT Alternative Financing Program with IATP	Provide significant administrative/fiscal support for the loan program

Idaho Community Foundation	Manages Loan Program endowment (\$160,000) and special project fund (\$115,000)	Administers loan guarantee & principle buy-down portion of loan program and manages endowment fund
United Cerebral Palsy	Receives subcontract from IATP for \$80,000 to operate statewide lending library, south Idaho demo site, and computer access lab.	Also a major partner in most training and public awareness activities

**State: Idaho 50 Entity Nature and Extent of Resources Information about Partnership**

UCP received a subcontract from AgrAblity program for \$140,000

Hand Therapy and Healing Center	Receives subcontract for \$7,500 from IATP to operate AT demo center and lending closet in north Idaho	Also a major partner in most training and public awareness activities in north Idaho
Idaho Council for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing	IATP purchases \$4,000 in equipment for these centers annually	Operates 7 hearing assistance centers
Idaho Parents Unlimited	IATP pays \$2,000 for space in four IPUL newsletters and provides \$1,000 for travel for north Idaho parents to IPUL conference	Idaho Parent Training Center under IDEA

The Advisory Council played a critical role in developing this application, and will continue to be involved in overseeing project activities (see 9.4) in Year Two and subsequent years. However, the project must also recognize the many individuals and their respective organizations that have played a part in the success of the project since its inception, and how these partnerships have helped shape the ideas that make up this application. Some partnerships include the exchange of funds while others provide avenues for disseminating information about AT to target groups. These collaborations have been critical to the project's successes. Table 3 lists the project's major partners.

Additionally, the IATP used three other strategies to ensure that individuals with disabilities, advocates, state agencies, community providers, and other public and private entities were involved in the development of this application, and subsequently, will be involved with implementing the Statewide AT Program:

- Participated in a survey conducted by the State Independent Living Council
- Conducted statewide needs assessment related to AT training & technical assistance
- Participated in Consortium for Idahoans with Disabilities

State Independent Living Council (SILC) Statewide Survey: In preparation for the development of this state plan in Year One, the IATP participated in a comprehensive survey of

Idahoans with disabilities at the invitation of the SILC. The study was conducted by the Social Science Department at Boise State University, and the IATP contributed six AT-related items for the questionnaire. Over 2,700 individuals were surveyed by telephone. Twenty-eight percent of the participants reported using assistive technology to increase their level of independence. Seventy percent reported not using assistive technology (n=603). Just over 60% strongly agree or agree that they have ready access to the AT devices they need, but 25% indicated they do not have ready access to needed equipment (n=596). According to this study, the most commonly used devices were mobility (25%), hearing devices (23.3%), and devices for overcoming a visual impairment (9.3%). The survey also considered the awareness and satisfaction of Idahoans with disabilities about a variety of publicly funded programs. Of those individuals who had received services from the IATP, nearly 78% reported being satisfied with IATP services (n=590). This survey is repeated from time to time by the SILC and its findings will continue to be used in Year Two and subsequent years to inform the IATP about the quality of its services.

Statewide AT Training Needs Assessment: The IATP also conducted its own statewide Needs Assessment related to the provision of training and technical assistance and other assistive technology related needs. The purposes of the Needs Assessment were as follows: to determine how the project can more effectively meet the requirements of the amended Assistive Technology Act, to identify areas of need in the disability community, to focus the training and technical assistance services where the need is based on actual findings, and to serve as the basis for a comprehensive statewide Two-Year Training Plan.

The Needs Assessment focused on a range of organizations and agencies, and included data collected from a sampling of State Medicaid offices, Vocational Rehabilitation, and Commerce and Labor (Job Service). The survey also focused on a small sample of Direct Service

State: Idaho 52

Providers, including the nursing staff at rehabilitation and care facilities. The survey timing did not allow us to adequately correspond with participants in the K-12 education arena, as teachers and related personnel were leaving for the summer.

The results of the needs assessment indicate that training is needed and desired. Only 21% of respondents believed they were “very prepared”, the majority (57%) felt “somewhat prepared”, and 25% were “not very prepared.” This indicates a definite need for training, particularly since only 36% of respondents said they received periodic training at the workplace, 25% learned through conferences or conventions, and 18% received no training at all. The responses indicated a willingness and desire to devote staff time to training, and were equally divided among the three on-site options presented, including short supplemental training at staff orientations, on-site presentations at in-services, and materials to supplement existing staff development programs.

The single most cited barrier was cost. Cost of devices (and in many responses, cost of evaluations and assessments) ranked first in the list of barriers across the board. The cost of devices and adaptive modifications are reported to be prohibitive, especially for (but not exclusive to) the older adult population and individuals living in rural areas.

In conclusion, the survey illustrated that while training can only partially address the challenge of cost issues, by providing information on funding sources and creative

alternatives to more expensive devices, training can resolve many of the challenges identified. This activity will not be conducted in Years Two or Three.

Participation with the Consortium for Idahoans with Disabilities: In Year Two, the IATP will continue to be involved with the Consortium for Idahoans with Disabilities (CID). This group is comprised of nearly 40 disability-related organizations and is a major force for

State: Idaho 53

representing the issues of Idahoans with disabilities at the systems change level. CID provides a valuable mechanism for receiving input about system barriers that still exist in Idaho's service delivery system that prevent Idahoans with disabilities from obtaining needed devices. CID meets monthly and is primarily focused on issues related to education, long term health care, employment, and community participation. The development of the ideas and concepts embodied in this application are the direct results of the input provided by CID members, especially Kelly Buckland (SILC Director), Bobbi Ball (ADA Task Force Director), and Jim Baugh (Protection and Advocacy).

9.2 Mechanisms to Ensure Coordination - Describe the mechanisms established to ensure coordination of activities and collaboration between the implementing entity, if any, and the State.

N/A

9.3 Involvement of State Advisory Council - Describe the nature and extent of the involvement

of the State Advisory Council in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the activities

carried out through the grant, including setting the measurable goals required in section 4(d)(3).

The project has maintained an active, consumer-driven, interagency board that has been involved in planning, implementing, and evaluating all project activities since 1992 (Section 3). The project and its board have been very proactive in taking steps to comply with the AT Act of 2004 while continuing to complete those activities required by the AT Act of 1998. In anticipation of the passage of a new Tech Act, staff and board members began the process of developing a new five-year strategic plan to guide the future activities of the Statewide AT Program.

On July 23, 2004, staff and members of the board, along with Kim Steinberg (facilitator) conducted a day-long retreat. The board members who participated in the retreat included Tina Carrier, Dan Brownell, Bernie Henscheid, Carolyn Jensen, Jacque Hyatt, and Ted Roy. Project

State: Idaho 54

director, Ron Seiler, also attended the event. The overall goal of the retreat was to consider how the IATP should respond to anticipated changes in the Tech Act.

The specific purposes of the retreat were to: (1) Adopt a new systematic strategic planning and ongoing program evaluation process in order to better align project activities with the requirements of the new AT Act; (2) Increase the capacity of the Customer Board to direct the activities and evaluate the outcomes of the IATP (in response to anticipated changes in Tech Act); (3) Review and suggest possible reprioritization of the current goals and objectives; and (4) Identify and prioritize new

initiatives for the next five years that align with the AT Act. Once the Tech Act was passed and signed by President Bush, the board directed staff to finalize the strategic plan and to begin its implementation. Once implemented, these changes will help the project maintain compliance with the new federal law.

State: Idaho 55

### ***Attachment 10: State Support***

10.1 State Support for State-level Activities – If applicable, describe how the State will support with State funds any State-level activities described in section 4(e)(2).

This past year, the IATP was successful in gaining approval for an appropriation of \$100,000 from the Idaho Legislature to support the AT Alternative Financing Program. These funds were to be used to match the Title III funds that have been appropriated by Congress in the past, but because the federal funding for Title III is no longer available, these funds will be placed in the “Special Project” fund at the Idaho Community Foundation. In Year Two and subsequent years, these funds will be used to guarantee loans for assistive technology.

10.2 State Support for State Leadership Activities - If applicable, describe how the State will support with State funds any State Leadership activities described in section 4(e)(3), if applicable.

Nearly all of the state-level and state leadership activities related to education that will be conducted by the IATP in the next three years will be supported under the terms of a subcontract with the Idaho Department of Education, Special Services Division. These state funds support a wide array of activities as previously described. The subcontract amount has varied from year to year, and was just approved for approximately \$81,000 for Year Two.

It is anticipated that each year the Idaho Department of Education will include funds in its budget that will be provided to the IATP. These funds will support training and technical assistance activities by covering a portion of salaries, fringe benefits, and travel expenses for AT specialists providing training and technical assistance. This funding will also help cover some of the other routine administrative costs such as office rent, office supplies, telephone, printing, postage, etc. However, this funding is available based on state appropriations and is not guaranteed.

State: Idaho 56

### ***Attachment 11: Allocation and Utilization of Funds***

11.1 Tracking Expenditures – Describe planned procedures for tracking expenditures for activities described in sections 4(e)(2) and (3).

All departments and units of the University of Idaho use the same web-based system to record and track income and expenditures. An elaborate coding system has been developed within the system to enable detailed accounting by “business unit” and type of expenditure. The IATP will request separate business units for State Level and State Leadership Activities under this grant and will code expenditures accordingly. At any time, a report can be obtained to monitor expenditures to assure that the IATP is in compliance with the percentages and budget amounts as per the State Plan. It will be the responsibility of the IATP Director to monitor expenditures on a monthly basis.

11.2 Proposed Budget Allocations – Attach a budget containing proposed allocations for activities described in sections 4(e)(2) and (3).

The following are proposed budget allocations for State Leadership and State Level Activities for Years One and Two of the State Plan.

**Proposed Distribution Total Award Amount**

**Allocation Year 1 Year 2**

**\$350,000 \$361,000**

State Level 60% \$189,000 \$194,940

State Leadership 40% \$126,000 \$129,960

Leadership Activities 95% (of 40%) \$119,700 \$123,462

Transition 5% (of 40%) \$ 6,300 \$ 6,498

Indirect Costs 10% \$ 35,000 \$ 36,100

**TOTAL \$350,000 \$361,000**

Within the above budget, NW Tech proposes to apportion funds for specific activities in the following manner.

State: Idaho 57

**State Level Activities Proposed Allocation**

**Year 1 Year 2**

State Financing Activities \$30,000 \$48,735

Device Reutilization Program \$20,000 \$48,735

Device Loan Program \$89,000 \$48,735

Device Demonstration Program \$50,000 \$48,735

**State Leadership Activities Proposed Allocation**

**Year 1 Year 2**

Training and Technical Assistance Activities \$46,900 \$40,000

Transition \$ 6,300 \$ 6,498

Public Awareness Activities \$47,800 \$40,000

Coordination and Collaboration \$25,000 \$43,462